

Commission 2004 Legislative Session Wrap-up:

The 2004 Legislative session adjourned sine die on March 12th. This year's session was a sixty-day session (In even numbered years the legislative session is sixty days; in odd numbered years the legislative session is one hundred and five days). Listed below is legislation the Commission followed during the legislative session.

Governor Locke has signed all of these bills into law

SB 6180: Sponsored by Senator Rosa Franklin

Description of the bill:

Senate Bill 6180 prohibits the use of genetic information in employment decisions. Prior to the passage of this legislation employers were able to deny someone employment if they were genetically predisposed to a certain disease (i.e. heart disease).

Status of bill:

Passed Senate 49-0

Passed House 94-0 with 4 members excused.

HB 2784: Sponsored by Representative Eric Pettigrew

Description of the bill:

House Bill 2784 creates a small business incubator program. The small business incubator program helps small businesses get off the ground running. The program provides the business with temporary office space and other ground level needs. Currently there is a pilot program like this at South Seattle Community College.

Status of bill:

Passed House 81-15 with 2 members excused

Passed Senate 46-0 with 1 member absent and 2 members excused

HB 2455: Sponsored by Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos

Description of the bill

House Bill 2455 creates a legislative ad hoc committee on financial literacy to develop and pilot financial literacy guidelines in school districts.

Status of bill:

Passed House 93-1 with 4 excused members

Passed Senate 45-1 with 3 excused members

SB 6411: Sponsored by Senator Dale Brandland

Description of bill

Senate Bill 6411 requires all school districts to implement a school lunch program in each public school within its district if at least 25 percent of the students in the school qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. SB 6411 also requires all schools offering a summer program to offer a summer food service program that is open to all children in the area if at least 50 percent of the children enrolled in the school qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

Status of the bill

Passed Senate 44-0 with 5 members excused

Passed House 77-18 with 3 members excused

SCR 8419: Sponsored by Senator Rosa Franklin

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8419 creates a joint select committee to identify ways to improve health care status and address health disparities in communities of color. The committee is comprised of four members of the House of Representatives and Four members of the Senate. The members will come from committees with jurisdiction over health care and education issues. Members of the state's ethnic commission's and the Governor's office of Indian Affairs are to provide input in the process. The recommendations of the committee are due to the Legislature by November 1st 2005.

Status of the Bill

Passed Senate 49-0

Passed House with amendments/ sent back to Senate for concurrence

Senate concurred in House amendments

Final passage 47-0 with 2 members excused.